



IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-20, 35-40, 45, and 56-59 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the recited subject matter.

1. - 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) An image processing method for use in a printer driver comprising the steps of:

receiving an instruction for a printing process;
judging whether an image corresponding to an image signal developed represents a specified image according to the printing process; and
outputting a result obtained in said judging step so as to use the result in a processing of said image signal,

wherein a forgery preventing module in an operating system outputs an instruction for executing a predetermined display to a display driver according to the result obtained in said judging step.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) An image processing method for use in a printer driver according to claim 21,

wherein a forgery preventing module in an operating system outputs an

instruction for terminating a spooling operation according to the result obtained in said judging step.

24. (Previously Presented) An image processing method for use in a printer driver according to claim 21,

wherein said judging step executes judgement using template matching.

25. (Previously Presented) An image processing method for use in a printer driver according to claim 21,

wherein said predetermined display indicates that the image is an image of which reproduction is inhibited.

26. (Original) An image processing method for use in a printer driver according to claim 25,

wherein when an instruction for printing is issued after the display, log information is stored in memory means.

27. (Original) An image processing method for use in a printer driver according to claim 21,

wherein said judging step executes judgement for an image corresponding to the image signal and plural specific images.

28. (Original) An image processing method for use in a printer driver according to claim 21,

wherein said judging step executes judgement with an image signal obtained by spatial thinning of the image signal.

29. (Original) An image processing method for use in a printer driver according to claim 21,

wherein said judging step executes with an image signal obtained by reducing the number of bits of the image signal.

30. (Original) An image processing method for use in a printer driver according to claim 21,

wherein said judging step terminates when there is obtained a high judgment rate indicating that the image corresponding to the obtained image signal is a specific image.

31. (Previously Presented) An image processing method for use in a printer driver according to claim 21,

wherein, said judging step executes judgement with the image signal obtained by spatial thinning of the image signal and, when a result of the judgement indicates a high probability of a specific image, said judging step executes judgement with the image signal without thinning.

32. (Previously Presented) An image processing method for use in a printer driver according to claim 31,

wherein said judgment with the unthinned image signal is executed with only the image signal of an area containing an object of judgment in the thinned image signal.

33. (Previously Presented) An image processing method for use in a printer driver according to claim 31,

wherein said judging step executes the second judgement using the unthinned image signal when a high judgment rate is obtained in the first judgment using the thinned image signal for two kinds of judgements provided for a same specific image.

34. - 45. (Cancelled)

46. (Original) A printer adapted for printing an image from the printer driver according to claim 21.

47. (Previously Presented) An image processing method for use in a printer driver comprising the steps of:

receiving an instruction for a printing process;
judging whether an image corresponding to an image signal developed represents a specified image according to the printing process; and
outputting a result obtained in said judging step so as to use the result in processing of said image signal,

wherein a forgery preventing module in an operating system outputs an instruction for terminating a spooling operation according to the result obtained in said judging step.

48. (Previously Presented) An image processing method for use in a printer driver according to claim 47,

wherein said judging step executes judgement using template matching.

49. (Previously Presented) An image processing method for use in a printer driver according to claim 47,

wherein said judging step executes judgement for an image corresponding to the image signal and plural specific images.

50. (Previously Presented) An image processing method for use in a printer driver according to claim 47,

wherein said judging step executes judgement with an image signal obtained by spatial thinning of the image signal.

51. (Previously Presented) An image processing method for use in a printer driver according to claim 47,

wherein said judging step executes with an image signal obtained by reducing the number of bits of the image signal.

52. (Previously Presented) An image processing method for use in a printer driver according to claim 47,

wherein said judging step terminates when there is obtained a high judgment rate indicating that the image corresponding to the obtained image signal is a specific image.

53. (Previously Presented) An image processing method for use in a printer driver according to claim 47,

wherein, said judging step executes judgement with the image signal obtained by spatial thinning of the image signal and, when a result of the judgement indicates a high probability of a specific image, said judging step executes judgement with the image signal without thinning.

54. (Previously Presented) An image processing method for use in a printer driver according to claim 53,

wherein said judgment with the unthinned image signal is executed with only the image signal of an area containing an object of judgment in the thinned image signal.

55. (Previously Presented) An image processing method for use in a printer driver according to claim 53,

wherein said judging step executes the second judgement using the unthinned image signal when a high judgment rate is obtained in the first judgment using the thinned image signal for two kinds of judgements provided for a same specific image.

56. - 59. (Cancelled)